



# SCIENCE

# 2

FOR FAMILIES

**Y**OU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support science learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

## SECOND GRADE

### What to expect:

In second grade, children begin to ask bigger and deeper questions as they broaden their knowledge of the world. Science education plays an important role in supporting the development of language and literacy skills by exposing your child to words connected to classroom observations. Science education helps second-graders formulate answers to questions like: "How does land change, and what causes it to change?" and "What do plants need to grow?"

This information is a snapshot of learning in second-grade science. For a complete set of science academic standards, click [here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Develop an understanding of what plants need to grow and how they depend on animals for seed dispersal and pollination.
- Develop an understanding of observable properties of materials through study and classification of them. Students might observe color, texture, hardness and flexibility, study the similar properties different materials share or investigate ice and snow melting or frozen objects thawing.
- Understand that wind and water can change the shape of the land and compare possible solutions that could slow or prevent such change.
- Use information and models to identify and represent shapes and kinds of landforms (plains, hills, mountains) and bodies of water. Using maps, be able to locate where water is found on Earth.

### What to do at home:

- Grow plants in a box garden or in planters and ask your second-grader to discuss things that will help the plants grow.
- Go on a nature walk in the neighborhood or a park and write down the different plants, insects and animals you see. Then go to a different neighborhood or park and find out if the same plants, insects and animals are present. Write down what you find.
- Go on a scavenger hunt in the kitchen and ask your child to put all the bowls, utensils, pots and pans in groups based on similarities and differences.
- Be on the lookout for how things change outside after a windy day or a strong rain. Ask your child to describe those differences and how the wind or water might have caused the change.



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## Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What do you notice or wonder about in your community?
- What new words or new things have you discovered?
- How can you solve the problems you see?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

## Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?
- What was the best thing that happened today? What was the worst?
- Did you learn something that challenged you today or was there something you didn't understand?

## Fostering Comprehension

As children continue to strengthen their reading skills, they benefit from reading independently and with adults. Exposing children to a variety of print materials such as books, magazines, etc., allows them to explore new words and ideas. Use the following questions to help your second-grader better understand what he or she is reading.

### BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- What kind of book is this?

### DURING READING

- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?
- What do you notice about the characters?

### AFTER READING

- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

Join the conversation!  
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